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World.

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NAVAL OFFICER AND 9 MEN LOST ON U.S. STEAMER SUNK BY U BOAT

WILSON AND BAKER CONFER OVER FINAL DRAFT DETAILS; MAY SEND ARMY TO FRANCE

Age Limits of 21 to 27, as Fixed by Senate, Favored by Administration—Fight Expected Over the Prohibition Amendment.

By Samuel M. Williams.

(Special Staff Correspondent of The Evening World.)
WASHINGTON, April 30.—The appeal for American soldiers to go to France is the paramount topic of discussion in Washington to-day, taking precedence over all other subjects in the international conference. As the guest of Major Gen. Hugh L. Scott, Chief of United States General Staff, the Marshal spent last evening at post headquarters in Fort Myer, across the Potomac from Washington, talking over the general military situation with prominent officers of the army.

Minister Viviani, head of the French mission, had a conference with the President to-day to lay before him the needs and the aspirations of France, both military and economic.

President Wilson and Secretary Baker to-day took up differences between the Senate and House Army Bills. The conference adjusting differences between the two Houses will be informed as a result of where the Administration stands on disputed points.

AGE LIMITS FIXED BY SENATE ARE PREFERRED.

The age limits of twenty-one to twenty-seven fixed in the Senate bill are preferred by the Administration, since they more nearly approximate the desire of the War Department for age limits of from nineteen to twenty-five years. The limits from twenty-one to forty, fixed by the House bill, are unsatisfactory to the Administration.

If the conferees accept the figures in one or the other of the bills as written, the Senate is more apt to yield than the House. Successive votes in the House showed the lower body to be against waging the war with "young men" only, and an amendment increasing the age limit to twenty-five years was defeated in the House by a tie vote. A proposal to fix the ages for draft at nineteen to twenty-five received only six votes in the House, and this reflects the unwillingness of the lower chamber to accept the low ages carried in the Senate bill.

Other amendments which will be the subject of conference are those of the Senate relating to the liquor question and the provision for the acceptance of the services of the "Roosevelt volunteers."

FIGHT IS EXPECTED OVER LIQUOR AMENDMENT.

The Senate conferees will find the managers of the House reluctant to accept the liquor amendment, which gives the President authority to regulate the sale of intoxicants in or near training camps and military stations and to prohibit the serving of liquor under such regulations to officers and men in uniform. It is believed the House conferees will hold out against this amendment, holding that it has no place in the Army Bill, and that

(Continued on second page.)

HAIG DEADLOCKED IN GREAT BATTLE ON SCARPE RIVER

British Commander Reports Position Improved and a Raid 50 Miles Northward.

LONDON, April 30.—The fighting in the rounded sector in front of Gavrelle, Roeux, Monchy and Guemappe was apparently in a "clinch" to-day, the armies on both sides more or less deadlocked.

"Between Monchy le Preux and the Scarpe," Gen. Haig reported, "in a small operation we took a few prisoners and improved our position."

"At night, north of Ypres, a successful raid was carried out," the British commander-in-chief also reported, "prisoners and a machine gun were captured."

Ypres is nearly fifty miles north of the Arras sector.

With yesterday's capture of German positions around Oppy, the British forces have now reached broken, irregular ground where the natural advantages of position are with the enemy.

The slaughtered enemy lies thick among the dandelion on the valley's yellowing slopes. In terms of losses, the Scarpe is a year's defeat for the Germans.

Paris War Office Forecasts a Renewal of French Offensive.

PARIS, April 30.—Forecasting possibly a resumption of a concerted offensive, the War Office statement to-day detailed "violent artillery actions" such as St. Quentin, around Troyenne, Craonne and the regions of Hurbieue.

Following is the text of the War Office report:

"Violent artillery fighting occurred during the night south of St. Quentin, in the regions of Hurbieue and Craonne. Our batteries continued their destructive fire against the German defenses on the heights near Moronvillers. Several German attacks on our trenches and small positions in the sector of Hurbieue, near Mount Cornillet, and in the vicinity of Mount Chambray were broken up by our artillery and machine gun fire. Everywhere else the night was calm."

"Enemy aviators last night threw down several bombs in the regions of Dunkirk, Nancy and Belfort. There were no casualties and the damage was insignificant. Chalons and Epervy were also bombed, and there were several victims among the civilian population."

The War Office announced that German air raids on Dunkirk, Nancy and Belfort had failed to inflict any casualties. Chalons and Epervy were also bombed by German aircraft, with several civilian victims reported.

Berlin Says British Lost 7,000 in Killed, Wounded and Missing.

BERLIN (via London), April 30.—Big losses of British attacking troops were mentioned in to-day's official statement.

"It is estimated," the War Office declared, "that on Saturday the English losses were 6,000 fallen and a thousand taken prisoner. Fifty machine guns were captured and ten tanks were destroyed."

"Since yesterday at noon the engagement from Salsoules as far as Suippes was again increased, reaching intense fighting in the evening and varying in strength during the night. It increased to its strongest degree at daybreak."

"In the western theatre of war the enemy on Saturday lost eleven aeroplanes and on Sunday twenty-three; also three captive balloons."

"After their failure on Saturday the English made only local attacks against Oppy. In assaults repeated four times against this hotly contested village the enemy exhausted his forces and the village remained ours. On the Scarpe fighting continued on both banks."

SEIZED GERMAN SHIPS HERE IN U. S. SERVICE THIS WEEK, TAKING SUPPLIES TO ALLIES

Government Cuts Red Tape and Will Send the Liners Out in Few Days.

(Special From a Staff Correspondent of The Evening World.)

WASHINGTON, April 30.—The German liners in New York harbor will sail before the week ends in the service of the United States government carrying supplies to our European allies.

Without waiting for settlement of technical legal questions, the Government has cut all red tape and taken physical possession of the ships in order to start them out at the earliest possible moment. Announcement was made in the Senate this afternoon by Senator Hoke Smith, that the damage done by Germans to their own vessels is being rapidly repaired and within the week the first of them will sail.

The Senate unanimously voiced a sentiment that not another day of delay should be tolerated. Senator Lodge said:

"Every hour is precious. The President has power to seize them. I hope he has done so already. No country will question our right to do so excepting Germany and Austria and we will soon settle matters with them."

Senator Knox introduced a resolution calling for immediate requisitioning of the vessel, by the President. Senator Overman said that the Judiciary Committee would report at once a resolution giving the necessary authority, leaving all investigations of jurisdiction and claims to be settled later.

Within five minutes the resolution was being read to the Senate. There was no opposition in the Senate to the purpose of the bill, but some of the Senators were critical about future claims.

Further technical debate ensued as to whether it would be better for the ships to be taken by executive war order of the President or by Congressional authorization. It was understood, however, by the Senate that the President was going ahead with measures to hurry the ships into commission to carry supplies and food to England and France and this course was unanimously approved.

Tube Train Is Stalled Under River in Rush Hour

Contact Shoe Falls Off and Lights Go Out—Traffic Tied Up Half Hour.

A contact shoe on one of the cars of an east-bound train in the Hudson Tube dropped off at a point under the middle of the North River in the Cortlandt Street tunnel at 8:40 o'clock to-day.

All the train lights supplied from the third rail went out, but the emergency lights, supplied from batteries in each car, were in service. Officials of the road say there was no panic. The train was helpless for fifteen minutes. Another train was sent out from Hudson Terminal and pushed the disabled cars into Jersey City. All traffic both ways, between the Hudson Terminal and Newark and Hoboken, was held up for half an hour.

NEW YORK'S WAR LID DOWN TO-NIGHT; 'DRY' AFTER 1 A. M.

Orders Issued To-Day Close All Saloons and Restaurants Where Liquor Is Sold.

Plans are complete to-day for New York's "dry" regulations, which become effective at 1 o'clock to-night. Every saloon and every restaurant where liquor is served will close at that hour and remain closed until 6 A. M.

"I believe," said the Mayor to-day, "that persons who hold all night licenses will be patriotic enough to obey the new order. I believe that when we are asking our young men to enlist the people of the city who might feel inclined to drink after 1 A. M. in public resorts will gladly forego that privilege."

There were thirty-two resorts which enjoyed the right to sell liquor up to 2 A. M., which was an hour's extension. There was another privileged class permitted to remain open day and night. Thirty-three licenses of this description were in force. These included restaurants and saloons, with eating accommodations, near market places and other centres where men were compelled to work all night.

Orders revoking all these licenses were issued to-day from City Hall.

Although the Mayor has no jurisdiction, practically all the legitimate private clubs will close their bars at 1 o'clock.

While Mayor Mitchell will not comment on so-called "private" athletic and social "clubs" which hold State charters granted before the consolidation of the Greater City in 1898, it is known that a list of these organizations will be given special attention by the police. The police have orders to raid these resorts if they attempt to sell intoxicating drink after 1 o'clock to-morrow morning.

The Mayor refers to the public reports seeking liquor selling privileges under State charters as "dancing clubs" and "fake clubs." He says he will treat them accordingly if they attempt to do business after 1 A. M.

EPIDEMIC OF TYPHUS REPORTED IN GERMANY

Newspapers Suppressed to Prevent Publication of Information of the Spread of Disease.

PARIS, April 30.—Germany is closing her frontier tight and suppressing newspapers because of an epidemic of typhus now raging in many big industrial centres, according to belief expressed by the Lausanne (Switzerland) correspondent of L'Information today.

The epidemic is attributed to malnutrition. In many German cities, the dispatch agents, whose sections are isolated by the military. In Cologne it is declared that every street is guarded and this is cited as an example of the strict watch kept in other German cities.

PETAIN MAY COMMAND BOTH ALLIED ARMIES FIGHTING IN FRANCE



Gen. HENRI PHILIPPE PETAIN

WASHINGTON, April 30.—In the opinion of several of Marshal Joffre's staff officers the appointment of Gen. Petain as Chief of Staff at the Ministry of War does not imply necessarily the removal of Gen. Nivelle as Commander in Chief of the armies of the north and northeast.

Gen. Petain, who has been commanding the central group of armies, extending roughly from Rheims to Verdun, according to military members of the mission, will be superior to Gen. Nivelle in that he will exercise a broad general control over operations. He will not, however, unless further changes be deemed necessary, supersede the present chief in the direct command of the units battling along the western front.

PARIS, April 30.—Appointment of Gen. Petain as Chief of Staff of the Army, with supreme control over the Republic's fighting forces everywhere, was regarded to-day as foreshadowing an era of offensive in all the theatres of war where French soldiers are fighting. Petain is known as an advocate of constant attack.

The Petit Parisien says that certain services whose working has been shown to be defective will be overhauled and that changes will be made among leaders, whose talents could be more judiciously used. The paper adds that this will be done "without prejudice to the discipline of those who, whatever their previous services, have committed faults and made mistakes."

HOME RULE FOR IRELAND SQUARELY UP TO BALFOUR

Lord Northcliffe Says British Mission to America Can Settle Difficulty.

LONDON, April 30.—Lord Northcliffe has issued a statement to the Associated Press respecting the Irish situation, which includes the following phrase:

"The happiness of Ireland is entirely in the hands of Mr. Balfour and the British mission in the United States. The differences between the two parties here have been so slight that Mr. Balfour's influence can settle the difficulty."

Boss Gave His Life to Save Those of His Workmen.

BUFFALO, April 30.—Fifteen men were at work to-day in the building on the dry dock where metal cutting and tanks were stored. A boiler was apparently ignited. When George Wadsworth, boss of the gang, saw the cyclinder begin to smoke he yelled a warning to the others and grabbing the tank he ran to drag it out of the building. As the doorway it exploded, Wadsworth was instantly killed. Three of the men were slightly injured.

CAPTAIN HARRIS DROWNS WITH 19 OF VACUUM'S CREW AFTER SUBMARINE ATTACK

Cablegram to the Owners of the Steamer Says All Who Got Into Lifeboat No. 1 Lost Their Lives—Sunk on Way to New York.

TWO GUNS ON THE SHIP, MOUNTED FORE AND AFT

LONDON, April 30.—The American oil tank steamer Vacuum was sunk by a German submarine on Saturday while she was on the way to the United States. The Chief Mate and seventeen men, including three gunners of the American navy, have been landed.

A boat containing Capt. S. S. Harris of the ship and twenty of the crew, together with a naval Lieutenant and nine naval gunners, is missing.

[The following message received in this city by the owners of the ship shows that the missing men were lost:

"[Vacuum torpedoed 28th, 140 miles west of Barra, No. 1 lifeboat, with captain and others, drowned; No. 2, with chief officer and following, saved: Simpson and Williams, engineers; Lindgren, carpenter; Lotes, quartermaster; Witten, Gishos, oilers; Parde, stoker; Byl, Singros, Vinegathan, seamen; Dia and Andrews, stewards; Halton, wireless; William Orell, Nicola, Hilson and Lasker, naval."

[This despatch names four gunners among the rescued. The Associated Press report from London says only three gunners landed.]

The lieutenant and the gunners are probably America's first fighting force to lose their lives in America's war with Germany. The naval lieutenant will be the first officer killed.

J. I. Epolucci, a boatswain's mate, U. S. Navy, is still missing from the Aztec torpedoing, and he may be the first of America's fighting men to die.

15 Americans in Vacuum's Crew; Nine of Them Native Born

The steamship Vacuum was a cargo vessel of 2,531 net tons and belonged to the Vacuum Oil Company of No. 61 Broadway. She has been carrying barrel oil between the United States and Europe almost since the outbreak of the European war. The vessel was under command of Capt. S. S. Harris and had a crew of thirty-four men.

Fifteen of the crew were American citizens, including 9 native born. As signed here before the United States Commissioner the Americans besides Capt. Harris were:

Oscar Gallor, mate, Russian, naturalized; Frank J. Yerney, second mate, Belgian, naturalized; E. D. Husted, third mate, Mount Vernon, N. Y.; John Kirk, chief engineer, Scotch, naturalized; John Simpson, assistant engineer, English, naturalized; No. 26 West Fifty-fifth Street, this city; Francis J. Davidson, assistant engineer, Swedish, naturalized; R. Williams, assistant engineer, born in Wisconsin; J. Wilkins, born in New York; W. H. Crane, steward, of No. 11 Eighteenth Street, Brooklyn; Thomas Ellis, Albany, N. Y.; L. J. Halton, wireless operator, Niagara, Wis.; Joseph Mullin, Brooklyn, and B. Plunzie and ——— McDiag, both of San Juan, P. R.

The Vacuum was built by the Great Lakes Engineering and Construction Company in 1912 and was christened

URGES BUDGET PLAN FOR U.S.
Senator Kenyon Asks Joint Congressional Action on It.
WASHINGTON, April 30.—A joint congressional committee to report plans for a national budget system to largely supersede present committee control of appropriations was proposed in a resolution introduced to-day by Senator Kenyon of Iowa. It recited that especially to secure economy in vast war expenditures a budget plan often agitated in recent years should be adopted.

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